

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 165158

66

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66615

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: DMORAN

APPROVED BY S/S-O: MTANNER

----- 051184

R 142016Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 165158

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT JIDDA 5041 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUL 14

QTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 5041

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USMTM DHAHRAN FOR INFORMATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY ACTIONS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

REF: (A) STATE 164709; (B) JIDDA 4419

SUMMARY:

MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN PLEASSED TO LEARN OF PROPOSED U.S. SUPPLY ACTION FOR EARLY PROVISION OF TOW MISSILES AND 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS. HE WILL LET US KNOW SHORTLY OF SAG'S FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER. AMBASSADOR TOLD SULTAN THAT OTHER ITEMS ON SAUDI WANT LIST WERE BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED, BUT NO RESPONSE COULD BE GIVEN BEFORE COMPLETION OF OUR MID-EAST POLICY REVIEW. SULTAN'S ATTITUDE POSITIVE AND SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 165158

UNDERSTANDING. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING MINSTATE FOR

FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SA'UD ARGUED FOR SWIFT U.S. RESPONSE
TO ALL OF SAG PENDING ARMS REQUESTS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING MEETING WITH MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN JULY 14,
AMBASSADOR AKINS INFORMED HIM THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS DISCUS-
SIONS IN WASHINGTON AND THOSE OF CHUSMTM GENERAL AHMANN,
THE USG WAS NOW ABLE TO MAKE AN INITIAL AND POSITIVE
REPLY TO SOME OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY REQUESTS THAT
SULTAN HAD MADE OF THE AMBASSADOR AT THEIR PREVIOUS
MEETING (REF B). THE AMBASSADOR THEN GAVE SULTAN THE
INFORMATION ON TOW MISSILES AND 155MM SELF-PROPELLED
HOWITZERS PER REF A.

2. SULTAN WAS PLEASED AND MOST INTERESTED WITH THE NEWS.
HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR SLOWLY TO REPEAT HIMSELF, WHILE
HE (SULTAN) TOOK IT DOWN ON PAPER. AFTER CHECKING
TO SEE THAT QUANTITIES ALLUDED TO BY THE AMBAS-
SADOR CORRESPONDED WITH THE QUANTITIES ON RECORD IN
MODA'S FILES, SULTAN SAID HE WOULD TAKE THIS GOOD NEWS TO
PRINCE FAHD THAT SAME EVENING. HE WOULD LET US KNOW
SHORTLY--PERHAPS EVEN AS SOON AS JULY 15--OF THE SAG'S
FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSAL.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE HOWITZERS, SULTAN BELIEVED THE
TRAINING TEAM WOULD BE WELCOME, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THERE
SHOULD BE NO BREAKDOWN IN THE COORDINATION OF SUPPLY,
WHEREBY HOWITZERS ON LOAN ARE EVENTUALLY REPLACED BY NEW
EQUIPMENT. IT COULD BE VERY BAD FOR HIS OFFICERS' MORALE
IF THE OLD EQUIPMENT WERE TAKEN AWAY, AND THE ARMY WERE
TO BE WITHOUT THESE WEAPONS FOR AN ENSUING PERIOD.
AMBASSADOR AKI S ASSURED HIM THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST
TO SEE THAT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN, AND IN FACT THAT GENERAL
AHMANN WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH OFFICIALS IN THE DEPART-
MENT OF DEFENSE TO ASSURE THE SMOOTH AND ORDERLY TIMING
OF DELIVERIES.

4. SULTAN ASKED IF THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH A
SUMMARY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION FOR THE RECORD;
THIS HAS BEEN DONE BY MEANS OF A FIRST PERSON NOTE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 165158

5. IN REYPPONSE TO SULTAN'S QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER ITEMS
ON THE SAUDI LIST OF REQUIRED ITEMS, THE AMBASSADOR
RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED BUT NO
RESPONSE COULD BE GIVEN BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF OUR
MIDDLE EAST POLICY REVIEW. SULTAN UNDERSTOOD.

6. PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISEL, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION LATER IN THE

DAY WAS INITIALLY LESS RESPONSIVE THAN WAS SULTAN. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE SHOULD BE ANY DELAY AT ALL; THE SAUDIS GIVE THE U.S. PREFERENCE IN EVERYTHING; THEY FOLLOW OUR ADVICE AND THE MILITARY ITEMS THEY HAVE REQUESTED ARE SIMPLY THOSE WHICH AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD THEM THEY NEED. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NO DISPOSITION IN WASHINGTON TO SHORT-CHANGE SAUDI ARABIA, BUT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO SELL LARGE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA NOW WHEN WE HAVE REFUSED TO SELL ARMS TO ISRAEL OR ANY OF THE OTHER CONFRONTATION STATES WOULD COMPLICATE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PEACE EFFORTS GREATLY AND NEEDLESSLY. IF SAUD DID NOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT AT LEAST HE DID NOT PRESS HIS OWN POINT.

AKINS

UNQTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE165158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: DMORAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750243-0480
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750758/aaaabztr.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 164709, 75 JIDDA 4419
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY SUPPLY ACTIONS FOR SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
To: DHAHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006